GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3236
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2001
CONVENTIONAL METHODS FOR WATER COLLECTION
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to revive the conventional methods for water collection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) The measures for water collection through conventional methods include construction of small , medium and large storage reservoir and water harvesting through micro watershed development programmes. India receives an average annual rainfall of about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM)including snow. Out of this, 3,000 BCM occursduring monsoon resulting in an average annual surface run-off about 1869 BCM in the various rivers of the country. The utilizable runoff by conventional methods has been assessed as 690 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). A live storage capacity of 176.73BCM has been created by construction of large dams upto 1995 including about 3 BCM capacity created by medium & small dams. It has also been estimated that about 24 BCMof rain water is stored in 3.5 lakh minor irrigation tanks. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75.42 BCM are under construction and 132.32 BCM are under planning.

Ministry of Rural Development, as part of the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana − Rural Drinking Water, is promoting ground water recharge rainwater harvesting and other traditional methods of conserving rainwater like village ponds, contour trenches etc. Ministry of Agriculture through watershed management programme i s implementing measures for increasing watershed retention capacity for rainwater. The Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry ofWater Resources has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.